

CIA Deputy Says Probes Not Catastrophic

By Mickey Sandlin

Congressional investigations into activities of the Central Intelligence Agency have not been "catastrophic," but have made the agency's job tougher.

That view was expressed by Lt. Gen. Vernon Walters, deputy director of the CIA, as he addressed some 500 Oklahoma high school and college students during a government workshop Friday at Oklahoma Christian College.

"I would like to tell you it's been catastrophic, but it hasn't been," Walters said during the conference sponsored by Sen. Dewey Bartlett, R-Oklahoma.

"We're doing a much better job than I thought we would," Walters said.

He admitted there have been abuses within the CIA, but added they have been badly "distorted."

Most of the abuses were halted by the agency before the recent wave of investigations began, he said, adding many allegations only represented internal discussion which was never put into action.

The CIA has never engaged in assassinations during its 27-year history, Walters claimed.

Drug experiments, he added, represented the agency's effort to counter "mind-bending drugs" believed used by enemies of the United States.

"We understand secrecy should not be used to cover abuses," Walters said.

However, intelligence gathering is still essential because the strength and quality of Soviet mili-

tary forces is higher than ever before, he said, noting "tomorrow China will have its capability."

Congressional regulation of the CIA should take the form of a single joint committee composed of members of both houses of Congress, much like the Atomic Energy Commission, Walters said.

Reports of CIA recruitment of troops to fight Soviet and Cuban-backed forces in Angola were false, he added.

Walters said the CIA has maintained no permanent agents in Angola, nor were American troops ever in the area.

The CIA official described recent publication of names of CIA agents in Counter Spy magazine as merely "letting people finger their fellow citizens for assassination."

"It hasn't made it any easier," Walters said.

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Catastrophic

ferring, to the publication. "You've just got to tough it out."

Walters added he knows of no agent whose name has been published who has requested a transfer.

The CIA receives less than 1 per cent of every dollar spent by the national government, which represents the smallest portion of the U. S. budget spent on the agency in 20 years, Walters said.

Manpower of the agency has dropped 40 per cent in the last six years, yet the CIA's mission has become increasingly more complex, he said.

Unless the nation maintains its "eyes to see and ears to hear," the United States could face nuclear blackmail in the future, Walters said.

"It is our duty to our part in intelligence to make

sure our country is not surprised," he said.

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CIA DEPUTY
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CIA Man Defends

By STEVE HOFFMAN

The Central Intelligence Agency "is not a policy maker, but simply supplies information," Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, the agency's deputy director, said Friday at Oklahoma Christian College.

But if the agency is to keep gathering information "we need the understanding of the American people. They need to understand what we do and why we do it," Walters said.

Walters said when he attend a National Security Council or cabinet meeting and a policy decision must be made, "I keep my mouth shut."

He said the agency's "responsibility is to tell what the situation is and how we see it."

But, because of recent congressional investigations, Walters said a number of Americans believe gathering information is wrong.

He said, however, most persons don't realize a strong intelligence community is a deterrent against attack by a foreign power "because they know that we know."

Speaking before about 300 high school and college students, Walters admitted there have been some abuses committed by CIA personnel.

"There have been some abuses and some things we prefer wouldn't have happened," Walters said. "We understand security must not be used to cover up abuses."

A guest speaker at the third annual Senator's Conference with Youth, Walters said the U.S. is in a "tri-power world with two giant powers facing us today."

"We will do our part in intelligence to see our nation is not surprised. We're committed to not being surprised again."

Walters, a longtime CIA

figure, said a president can't act on treaties with foreign governments without information the CIA provides.

"Intelligence is a force for peace," he said. "A president couldn't sign an arms limitation treaty with the Soviet Union unless he knew the treaty would be carried out."

Walters said the greatest threats facing the U.S. are the Soviets and the Red Chinese.

"We see them (Russia) quite prepared through proxies (Communist block countries) to move against us," Walters said.

He said the Soviets during the past few years have added one million men to their armed forces, improved their military technology and their presence at sea.

"We've seen the Soviet Union deploy five new generations of three missiles and create a large number of submarines," Walters said. "They have new aircraft with the capability of attacking the

U.S."

"Tomorrow China will have these capabilities," he said.

Walters said there are three methods the agency uses in obtaining information — media publications, technical and clandestine.

Monitoring a national publication — such as Russia's Pravda — Walters said the CIA can keep close tabs on political figures and foreign policy.

International technical meetings and spy hardware keep the agency in touch with a country's technology, he said.

But, he said the most infamous method — clandestine operations — makes up the smallest portion of the CIA budget.

"It really represents a very small part, but it's an important part of what we do," Walters said.

"No technical method will get you inside a man's head," he said. "Only people can know people."

The work of the CIA, he said

Agency's Role

allows the country to project its military budget and keeps down the cost of unneeded military hardware.

"Defense costs are tailored to our own needs to keep up with foreign countries," Walters said.

He said without the CIA "defense costs would soar out

of sight" because the country would have to overprotect itself if it didn't know what kind of force other nations have.

Without the agency, Walters said the U.S. could "stumble blindly" in the near future into "abject humility" inflicted by other nations.

*CIA Deputy
to address
youth group*

OKLAHOMA CITY — Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will be featured speaker at the Third Annual "Senators Conference with Youth" Friday at Oklahoma Christian College, Oklahoma City.

Walters, who has been CIA deputy director since 1972, will explain the methods and goals of the CIA and the methods used to achieve those goals, according to Sen. Dewey F. Bartlett.

"The conference will give Oklahoma students a chance to learn about the American intelligence community, especially in light of the many questions that have arisen about the proper function of the CIA," Bartlett said.

Bartlett also expressed hope that students attending the conference will receive a first-hand report on the vital and legitimate role of the CIA in national defense.

Following his luncheon address, Walters will join with Bartlett and Sen. Henry Bellmon in informal discussions with students during the afternoon session of the conference.

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Conference on
Youth*

*Org 1 Oklahoma
Christian
College*